

Message Text

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SUBJ: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STAFFING

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1. OFFICER IN EMBASSY E/C SECTION OFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS SCIENCE LIAISON OFFICER (SLO) AND SPENDS APPROXIMATELY FOUR HOURS PER WEEK ON FUNCTION (MOSTLY IN LIAISON ROLE WITH REGARD TO U.S.-AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT AND NASA-GOA RELATIONS).

2. SAME OFFICER REPORTS ON MATTERS OF ECOLOGY, HEALTH, ANTARCTIC RELATINS, WEATHER MODIFICATION, FISHING, AND ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (CSIRO). THESE ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS PER WEEK, BUT ARE FLEXIBLE, EXPANDING TO MEET AD HOC DEMAND IN PARTICULAR AREA (E.G. AS WAS THE CASE WITH PRELIMINARIES LEADING UP TO RECENT ANTARCTIC TREATY SPECIAL SONSULTATIVE MEETING ON MARINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIVING RESOURCES).

3. SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND AUSTRALIA UNDER THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT ARE EXTENSIVE, BUT DIRECT WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ARE GENERALLY SO CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE THAT LITTLE DIRECT EMBASSY INTERVENTION

REQUIRED (THIS APPLIES TO REGULAR PROGRAM AND JOINT BALOON LAUNCH PROGRAM). ACTIVITIES OF SLO HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED ON RENEGOTIATION OF BASIC AGREEMENT (WHICH DUE IN AUGUST 1978) AND AS USG REPRESENTATIVE AT OCCASIONAL SEMINARS.

4. SAME MAY BE SAID FOR LONG-ESTABLISHED AND WELL-RUN NASA PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA. NASA MAINTAINS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN AUSTRALIA WHO OVER THE MANY YEARS HE HAS BEEN HERE HAS ESTABLISHED EXTREMELY CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND OF DEFENSE (LATTER FOR WOOMERA AEROBEE ROCKET LAUNCHING PROGRAM). ROLE OF SLO PRIMARILY THAT OF NEGOTIATING EXCHANGES OF NOTES, ETC. IN CONNECTION WITH CHANGES IN PROGRAM.

5. IN ADDITION, REGIONAL RESOURCES OFFICER SPENDS APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS PER WEEK REPORTING ON TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MINERALS AND ENERGY FIELDS AS THEY PERTAIN TO AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND AREAS IN REGION FOR WHICH HE IS RESPONSIBLE.

6. WORK OF CSIRO SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO USG AND THIS IS REPORTED ON AN "OPPORTUNITY" BASIS BY SLO. IN ADDITION, COUNSELLOR (SCIENTIFIC) AT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IS LISTED IN GOA OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY AS AN "OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVE" OF CSIRO AND HE MAINTAINS CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES AND PRIVATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUSINESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE (NTIS) HAS, OR SOON WILL HAVE, ARRANGEMENT TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON CSIRO PUBLICATIONS THROUGH ITS PROGRAM.

7. THUS WHILE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS BETWEEN U.S. AND AUSTRALIA ARE EXTENSIVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THEY ARE ADEQUATELY COVERED BY PRESENT OVERALL MISSION STAFFING AND PROCEDURES.
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